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EAST EUROPE BRANCH NOTES

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ROMANIA

Romanian National Assembly President Dies

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Miron Constantinescu, a member of the party secretariat and President of the Romanian Parliament, died yesterday. In announcing the death of the 58-year-old Constantinescu, Bucharest neither gave the cause nor indicated who would fill his party and state jobs.

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[REDACTED]

In many respects, Constantinescu will be difficult to replace--at least on the secretariat. He was something of a bridge between the party old guard and the young technicians whom Ceausescu has brought into the upper echelons of the party/state hierarchy.

One possible candidate is Ioslf Uglar, head of the Committee for Problems of the Peoples Councils. Uglar is in his early fifties, an ethnic Hungarian, and party careerist of long and good standing. Over the last year, his name has appeared increasing with that of Ceausescu's, leading some observers to speculate he is destined for better things.

A second candidate is Gheorghe Cioara, the mayor of Bucharest and a member of the party Executive Committee. Cioara has distinguished himself of late by his enthusiasm for Ceausescu's pet project--fulfilling the five year plan in four-and-one-half years.

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#### BULGARIA

##### Shpeter Spy Case Still Pending

On August 5, a Bulgarian military court will hear an appeal by Henrich Shpeter, a Bulgarian economist convicted of espionage in early June and sentenced to death.

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Both Austrian Chancellor Kreisky and Swedish Premier Palme have sent personal appeals to Zhivkov to commute Shpeter's sentence on humanitarian grounds. Bulgarian Ambassador to the US Popov admitted that his embassy had received some appeals and protests, but he dismissed them as messages stirred up by a few of Shpeter's Jewish friends in the New York area.

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